PROMISES MADE
KEPT to Vermont State Employees, Teachers, and Taxpayers
A Conference on Pension Reform

Presenter Bios

BAILEY CHILDERS, Executive Director
National Public Pension Coalition

Ms. Childers is the Executive Director of the National Public Pension Coalition, where she leads national and state efforts to protect the retirement security of public employees and advance retirement security for working Americans. Childers joined NPPC from the Center on Budget and Policy Priorities. At CBPP she managed efforts to prevent states from giving ill-advised tax breaks to the wealthy and profitable corporations instead of investing in schools and communities. Childers managed national and state campaigns for AFSCME for four years, including a victorious campaign to protect Ohio's public workers from a Walker-style attack on collective bargaining rights. Through her roles at AFSCME and on various Democratic political campaigns, Childers hired and mentored dozens of new leaders, elevating the voices and work of women and people of color in the labor movement. Childers graduated magna cum laude from Wellesley College. She is a native of Longview, Texas.

DAVID COATES, Managing Director
KPMG, LLP (Retired)

Mr. Coates is a former managing partner of KPMG's Burlington, Vermont office. Mr. Coates is a director of National Life Group, Green Mountain Power Corporation, Vermont Student Assistance Corporation, A.N. Derringer, Inc., and a member of the Advisory Board of Directors of Superior Technical Ceramics Corporation. Mr. Coates is a member of the Vermont Debt Affordability Advisory Committee, the Vermont Municipal Bond Bank, the Vermont Business Roundtable, and the American Institute of CPAs.

MARK CROW, President
Tenth Crow Creative

Mr. Crow is President of Tenth Crow Creative, an advertising and design agency based in Burlington, Vermont. Working with clients in a variety of industries, Mark's industry experience includes healthcare, food/beverage, manufacturing, financial, lifestyle/fitness and energy. Prior to joining Tenth Crow as a partner in 2006, Mark practiced business and real estate law for 18 years, mostly as a partner with two Burlington firms. Mr. Crow graduated with a J.D. from the University of Southern California and a B.A. from Colorado College. Mr. Crow is a member of the Vermont Business Roundtable.

BETH PEARCE, State Treasurer
State of Vermont

Treasurer Pearce was elected to a fourth term in office in November 2016. She served her first term upon appointment to the position of Vermont State Treasurer by Governor Peter Shumlin in January 2011. Previous to assuming the role of State Treasurer, she served for more than seven years as Vermont's Deputy Treasurer. Pearce has almost 40 years of experience in government finance at both the state and local levels. As State Treasurer, she has emphasized the importance of maintaining Vermont's bond rating. Vermont has the highest general obligation bond ratings of any New England state. She continues her advocacy for conservative and affordable debt practices, prudent management of the pension systems, and responsible use of reserves.

Treasurer Pearce has a B.A. from the University of New Hampshire. She has prepared financial reports that have received the Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting by the Government Finance Officers Association.

Presenter Bios (Continued)

JOHN PELLETIER, Director
Center for Financial Literacy, Champlain College

Since its launch in 2010, Mr. Pelletier has been Director of the Center for Financial Literacy at Champlain College. The Center's work has been recognized by the Obama White House, the Consumer Financial Protection Agency, the US Department of Treasury, the FDIC and the media. Prior to working at the Center, John was chief operating officer and chief legal officer at some of the largest asset management firms in the United States.

Mr. Pelletier is the chair of the Vermont Universal Children's Higher Education Savings Account Program Fund Advisory Committee; the co-chair along with the Vermont State Treasurer of the Vermont Financial Literacy Commission; a member of California Community College Financial Education Project Advisory Group; and an independent director of the Transamerica Fund Family.

GOVERNOR PHIL SCOTT
State of Vermont

Gov. Phil Scott is a native Vermonter who grew up in Barre, and is a graduate of Spaulding High School and the University of Vermont. In 2000, he was elected to the Vermont Senate, where he represented Washington County for five terms. During his 10-year service in the Senate, he was Vice Chair of the Transportation Committee and Chair of the Institutions Committee. He was elected Vermont's 79th Lieutenant Governor in 2010, serving until January, 2017.

Throughout his years of public service, Governor Scott has listened to, and learned from Vermonters, and is always willing to roll up his sleeves to help make a difference in people's lives. As Lt. Governor, he launched the Everyday Jobs Initiative, and Vermont Economy Pitch sessions, for the opportunity to learn from Vermont's employers and workers. And in 2011, in the wake of Tropical Storm Irene, he organized the removal and disposal of mobile homes around the state, which were destroyed by the flood, all at no cost to homeowners and without spending any taxpayer dollars.

Through the Everyday Jobs Initiative, Governor Scott has worked in 35 different professions around the state - working alongside a host of professionals and business owners, from manufacturing floor technicians and beekeepers to emergency room workers and second grade teachers. The Vermont Economy Pitch sessions, started in January 2015, provided businesspeople the platform to pitch ideas directly to legislators on how to improve Vermont's business climate. Many ideas from those sessions were introduced into the 2015 legislative session, several of them passed into law. In 2005, he founded the Wheels for Warmth program, through which Vermonters donate tires they no longer need. The tires that meet state inspection standards are offered for resale at affordable prices, with all proceeds benefiting heating fuel assistance programs. More than $ $367,000 has been raised in total, and tires that are not reusable are recycled.

LISA VENTRISS, President
Vermont Business Roundtable

Ms. Ventriss joined the Roundtable in 2002 as President and chief spokesperson. Since then, Ms. Ventriss has led the organization to become effective and respected business champions for public investments in the early years of a child's life; for improvement of Vermont's PreK-12 education system to bring equity, access, and quality of experience to all children; and, for better alignment of the state's education and training programs with the needs of the State's employers. The Roundtable's efforts have resulted in meaningful policy changes at the state level and have earned a national reputation and recognition for successful community building on these issues.

Ms. Ventriss holds leadership positions in a number of Vermont and New England-based organizations. She earned a Master of Public Administration and B.A. in Political Science from the University of Vermont and is the recipient of a number of awards including the 2017 Catherine McAuley Award from Mercy Connections.